MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Part (*a*). No. Part (*b*). In view of the answer to the previous part this does not arise.

Age of an Officer of the Secretariat.

106. MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they have received a representation that an officer of the Huzur Secretariat is over 55 years of age and that the age he has given is false; and

(*b*) if the answer to part (*a*) is in the affirmative, when the representation was received, about whom, and the action, if any, taken thereon?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The petition was received in April 1930. It was about the age of Mr. A. Padmanabha Aiyar, one of the Superintendents in the Secretariat. The petition was enquired into and as the allegation was found to be false, it was recorded.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I know the nature of the enquiry that was made?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The officer's explanation was obtained.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Was that all the enquiry that was made?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I know the nature of the explanation?

MR. K. GEGRGE ((*Chief Secretary to Government*): The nature of the explanation is that the entries in the documents are wrong being themselves inconsistent. The entry in the service book was made years ago and that is correct and the entry of the date of birth of his brother in palace employment was wrong and that he is prepared to prove that.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): How many entries were referred to in that petition?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Two.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): That is to say the entry in the document and the entry in the Palace service book?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Only the entry in two documents was referred to by the petitioner. The petitioner also said that the date of birth of the younger brother as put down in his service book was earlier than the date of birth of Mr. Padmanabha Aiyar.

MR. A. THAHU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): That was the age of the younger brother who retired in his 55th year from the Palace?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): According to his service book he retired in his 55th year.

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MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): That is years ago. He has retired from service and his elder brother in the Secretariat is not yet 55?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The entry in the Palace service book was wrong.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Was any notice issued to the petitioner saying that the entries were wrong and asking him to prove them?

MR K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The petitioner only made mention of two documents and copies of the documents were furnished. There was no necessity for issuing notice to him. No reliance could be placed on those documents.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): According to both those documents he was over 55?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Am I to take it that the Government were satisfied with Mr. Padmanabha Aiyar's statement that the entries in those documents were thoroughly incorrect.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Government were satisfied that the entries in those documents were thoroughly wrong.

MR. A. THAHU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Was it through any judicial enquiry that the Government were satisfied that the explanation is correct?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): No judicial enquiry was made.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Who was the particular officer concerned in calling for this explanation?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): He was a subordinate of the Secretariat and the Head of the office made the enquiry.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Was it the learned Chief Secretary who made the enquiry?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes, the Chief Secretary was the person who got his explanation.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*); Did Government think it necessary to make any enquiry in regard to Mr. Padmanabha Aiyar's explanation?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Government did not think it necessary to conduct any regular enquiry.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Do Government think it necessary to make enquiries when such matters are brought to their notice?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): That is a general question. Each question will be decided on its own merits.

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MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Do Government insist on the rule of 55?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): They do, except in the case of ministerial servants who may be retained in service up to 60 years of age.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Is that the general rule?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): They may be allowed extensions up to the 60th year.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I find stated here that the allegation was found to be false. Am I to take it that Government went by the other statement, that is, the statement of the person concerned?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Government took into account the probabilities of the case.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*); May I know the probabilities of the case except that it was Mr. Padmanabha Aiyar who could not have made a false statement?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): That is an insinuation.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): There is also the entry in the other service book, which is also stated to be false?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I want to draw your attention to the fact that if you do not insist on the Government going by the Palace service book, the position of the Government is perfectly clear.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): There might be other documents as well. Government are now making the statement that the petitioner's allegation was false. There has never been a statement that the allegation was substantiated.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: That is alright. You need not pursue it. In the light of the information before the Government the allegation was found to be false. If other statements were given Government would have looked into them.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Government could have come to the conclusion that Mr. Padmanabha Aiyar's statement was false and the other was correct.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: You have to accept the judgment of the Government that the allegation is false. If fresh materials were placed before them they would have enquired into them. Now you have to accept their view. Do not proceed to cross-examine.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): The matter is quite clear. I don't want to pursue it.

Punishment of assistant Masters of Vilavurkal Primary School.

107. **MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI** (*Trivandrum cum Neduvangad*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether the assistant masters of Vilavurkal Primary School, who were examined as witnesses

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